

December 17, 2015

**Subject:** Urban Footprint

**Reporting Period:** October 2015-December 2015

**Staff Lead:** Mike McCoy

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### **Recommended Action:**

For information only – no action required.

### **Background:**

The Urban Footprint tool continues to be supported by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and multiple regional planning organizations as a dynamic open source scenario planning tool to analyze the transportation, energy, water, household cost, fiscal, and physical activity-related public health impacts, on proposed land use scenarios during the plan development and decision making process. Version 1.0 was completed in 2012 with SGC funding.

### **Update:**

SGC has commitment from SACOG, SCAG, and UC Davis (in collaboration with USC) to beginning a joint model improvement, dissemination and education project. As presented at the October meeting, this joint effort will include:

1. A thorough professional analysis of the software architecture and functions of Urban Footprint conducted by an independent, disinterested party, and
2. Consideration of a collaborative, joint, non-profit structure for the management of further open source development, finance, governance and management involving these parties and additional institutions and foundations with interests in providing and using such tools.

This project includes outreach and support for individual cities considering use of Urban Footprint for the development of local plans consistent with regional Sustainable Community Strategies, University Extension education courses for planners and consultants interested in learning more about the model, incorporation of the model into undergraduate planning curricula, user prioritization of model improvements, and fundraising for and oversight of model improvement efforts.